

Application No.: 10/009,018

Docket No.: AP9650

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-9, and 11-12 were previously canceled. Claim 7 is amended herein and no new claims are added. No claims are canceled. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10 remain under prosecution in this application.

35 USC §102

Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by German Publication DE 198 14 304.4 (hereinafter '304).

Claim 7 includes, amongst other limitations, "...wherein said one-piece sleeve includes a sidewall portion extending from a generally continuous bottom portion, wherein said bottom portion directly contacts and receives the valve seat..." Where does the '304 reference meet this limitation? Nowhere does the '304 reference teach or suggest a "one-piece sleeve [which] includes a sidewall portion extending from a **generally continuous** bottom portion..." If the examiner believes that the '304 reference shows a one-piece sleeve having a **generally continuous** bottom portion, the undersigned respectfully requests that the examiner specifically call out the drawing and reference number in the '304 reference that the examiner is relying on for this teaching of "**generally continuous**."

Independent from the above-referenced argument, claim 7 is also patentable over the '304 reference in a second respect. Specifically, claim 7 sets forth, amongst other limitations, "**wherein said bottom portion [of said one-piece sleeve] directly contacts and receives a valve seat...**" Nowhere does the '304 reference teach or suggest a **bottom portion** of a one-piece sleeve that **directly contacts and receives the valve seat**. The embodiments of Figures 1 and 3 of the '304 patent show a one-piece sleeve that has no bottom and therefore neither Figures 1 or 3 meet the claimed "**generally continuous**" limitation. Figure 2 shows a one-piece sleeve (i.e. second annular part 2") which does **not** have a generally continuous bottom portion and which does not **directly** contact and receive the valve seat but rather supports an intermediate member (intermediate member is not numbered in Figure 2 nor discussed in the specification) that is

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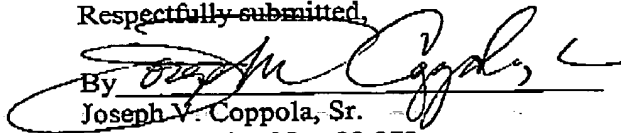
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clearly visible in Figure 2 as a distinctly separate member from valve seat 3 by virtue of the cross-hatching used to depict the unnamed intermediate member.

For the above-referenced reasons, the undersigned believes that claim 7 and claim 10 are now in condition for allowance. If any fees are due with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 503145, under Order No. AP9650 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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